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CONGRESSMAN MIKE PENCE'S OPENING COMMENTS DURING DISTRICT MEDIA TELECONFERENCE

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"Last night was big news for jobs in the Sixth Congressional District. The American Jobs Creation Act was passed into law, which basically repealed some subsidies for exports that were found to be a violation of international agreements. They resulted in as much as 12 percent tariffs in some European countries against some \$4 billion in U.S. exports. We had to take those down. We had to eliminate those manufacturing subsidies for exporters. In so doing, we took the opportunity to create some tax relief.

"You take away with one hand in order to alleviate barriers to exporting U.S. manufacturing goods and agricultural goods. But what we wanted to do was give, during this economic recovery, we wanted to give back to the manufacturing sector and we did so in a couple different ways.

"We provided a nine percent tax deduction, which amounts to a three percent rate cut on all domestic manufacturing activity. It's available to "C corporations," "S corporations," partnerships and the like. Since January of 2001, I've served this district and it's been in recession since I took office...so the additional tax relief to manufacturers, and to no less extent, lowering barriers to U.S. manufacturing and agricultural goods is very good news.

"There are other elements of that bill that have a partial impact on farmers and small manufacturers having to do with AMT and the rest. That was an important piece of legislation. We actually passed the conference report on that the American Jobs Creation Act so that should be going to the president in the next couple of days.

"The other piece obviously...I spoke on the house floor today...on the 9-11 Recommendations Implementation Act...I'm a member, as many of you know, I'm a member of the 9-11 Caucus in the House and frankly I've worked with Republicans and Democrats to move this process along.

"I was an early supporter of a bipartisan 9-11 bill that was originally introduced by [Congressman] Shays and Democratic Congresswoman Maloney.

"I think that both on the Judiciary Committee on which I serve and elsewhere that we significantly improved the bill and as I said on the House floor this morning, I think by essentially defending the defense intelligence...that we have, while creating structures for better coordination between various agencies and significantly strengthening our immigration laws, I think we're creating a 9-11 bill that is going to significantly enhance the security of the people of the U.S.

"My hope is that sometime today, if not tonight, if not tomorrow morning, we're going to produce a piece of legislation that will enjoy broad bipartisan support. It will be the House bill that is passed, so on a closing note I want to say that while we are technically finishing the work of the 108th Congress today there is a possibility that we will return for a day or two sometime between now and election day assuming, and I believe there has been great progress in the last 24hrs, assuming the House and Senate are able to reconcile their differences on their various 9-11 bills...

"There is some reason to believe the Senate came in our direction in terms of some of the identification issues, part a driver's license amendment offered by Senator McCain. Early in the week it looked like we were going to be strongly at cross purposes with the Senate, which in my four years here I've found usually means we don't get legislation done when that's the case.

"But I'm cautiously optimistic that we will actually be able to return very briefly between now and election day and produce legislation implementing many of the recommendations of the 9-11 Commission as well as additional important issues, particularly immigration enforcement reforms that the committee for a variety of reasons did not address...

"I said on the House floor this morning that we had a grim reminder in Egypt yesterday that our terrorist enemies are afoot and we also recognize from the experience in Spain and Russia that they apparently believe that the days prior to elections are particularly attractive for their treachery so we go about this deliberation against a backdrop of uncertainty in our country and frankly with uncertain days ahead, between now and election day, but I think the American people expect us to do the necessary work - not to rubberstamp the 9-11 Commission recommendations but rather to let the Congress work its will for us to bring many of their excellent recommendations to the floor to bring other issues that they, for whatever reason, did not address. And as I said on the floor today I greatly admire and appreciate the work of the 9-11 Commission but they were not elected to represent the American people, we were. And I think that the Congress today will demonstrate in the House of Representatives that in producing a 9-11 bill that will greatly advance the security of the American people.

"And as I said, I think it's especially important during these uncertain times that we be strong, that we be courageous and we do the work the American people sent us here to do and continue to advance our security as we go into these next several weeks."

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